

Dangerous Cold Arriving

Life-Threatening Arctic Cold This Evening - Thursday Morning



Lowest Forecast Wind Chills Tonight - Thu a.m.



NWS Chicago | weather.gov/Chicago | Issued: 1/29/2019 6:30 PM Central

- ✓ **Avoid time outdoors if possible**
- ✓ **Cover exposed skin - layers, hats, & gloves**
- ✓ **Know signs of frostbite & hypothermia**
- ✓ **Bring pets indoors**

Wed AM

- **Lows:**
-21° to -27°
- **Wind Chills:**
-45° to -54°

Thu AM

- **Lows:**
-20° to -38°
- **Wind Chills:**
-23° to -46°

EXTREME COLD



Message of the Day:

- Coldest air mass in years to arrive through the evening and persist all Wednesday and into Thursday
- Record breaking cold (potentially all-time) Wednesday & Thursday
- Wind chills -30 to -55 below zero this evening thru Thursday morning, potentially as cold as 60 below zero in spots Wed. AM
- Wind Chill Warning tonight through Thursday morning

Important Forecast Changes

- Lowered forecast temperatures slightly through Thursday morning from previous forecast.

NEW

Forecast Highlights

Key Points



Hazards: Life threatening extreme cold arriving this evening and persisting through Thursday. In addition, blowing and drifting snow is likely in open areas today.



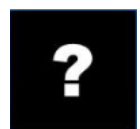
Areas Impacted: All of northern Illinois and northwest Indiana.



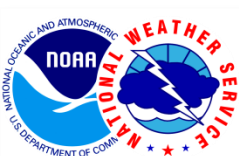
Timing & Duration: Extreme cold: Tonight through Friday morning, with the most dangerous cold tonight through Thursday morning. Blowing snow tonight and possibly Wednesday through midday in places.



Impacts: Bitterly cold temperatures can lead to rapid onset of frostbite and hypothermia. Blowing snow can result in sharply reduced visibility and snow covered roads.



Certainty & Considerations: High confidence in the cold tonight through Thursday. High confidence in blowing snow.



Forecast Highlights

Key Points



Historical Perspective: Currently forecasting temperatures to reach or exceed the all time record cold levels. The last time we saw cold even remotely comparable was 1994.

For reference, conditions: Coldest January 18-20th 1994 Hi/Lo:

Chicago: -11°F/-21°F on January 20th 1994

Rockford: -14°F/-24°F on January 18th and 19th 1994

Chicago all-time record coldest:: -27 on January 20th 1985

Rockford all-time coldest: -27 on January 10th 1982

Chicago Daily Record Cold Temperatures

Jan 30th Daily Record

Record coldest High Temp: 3°F

Record coldest Low Temp: -15°F

Current Forecast: Hi: -15°F; Lo: -24°F

Rockford Daily Record Cold Temperatures

Jan 30th Daily Record

Record coldest High Temp: -3°F

Record coldest Low Temp: -19°F

Current Forecast: Hi: -17°F; Lo: -27°F

Jan 31st Daily Record

Record coldest High Temp: 1°F

Record coldest Low Temp: -12°F

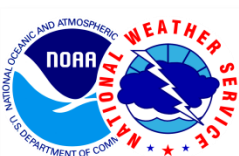
Current Forecast: Hi: -1°F; Lo: -26°F

Jan 31st Daily Record

Record coldest High Temp: -3°F

Record coldest Low Temp: -18°F

Current Forecast: Hi: -3°F; Lo: -32°F



Wind Chill Advisory & Blowing Snow Threat Today

Tonight-Wed AM: Blowing & Drifting Snow Likely in Open Areas



In Addition to Life-Threatening Low Wind Chills

Winds & Temperatures



- Westerly gusts 25-35 mph
- Temps tonight: -5° to -15° by late evening
- Lows Wed AM: -20° to -28°
- Wind Chills: -30° to -40° by late evening
 - -45° to -60° Wednesday AM

Blowing & Drifting Snow



- Favored in open areas through Wednesday AM
- Ground blizzard conditions possible in rural areas with temporary very low visibility
- Hazardous travel in some areas

Spotty Snow



- Scattered snow showers and flurries tonight
- Any patchy accumulation <1 inch



Photo Credit: Agata Warzocha



Actions/ Safety

- ✓ Bring an emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
- ✓ Use plenty of extra caution when driving.
- ✓ Leave extra time to reach your destination.
- ✓ Slow down on snow covered roads & in low visibility.
- ✓ Dress in layers, hat & gloves/mittens. Cover extremities.

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Wednesday Morning

Record to Near Record Cold



Life-Threatening Wind Chills



Wednesday Afternoon

Record to Near Record Cold



Life-Threatening Wind Chills



Thursday Low Temps & Wind Chills

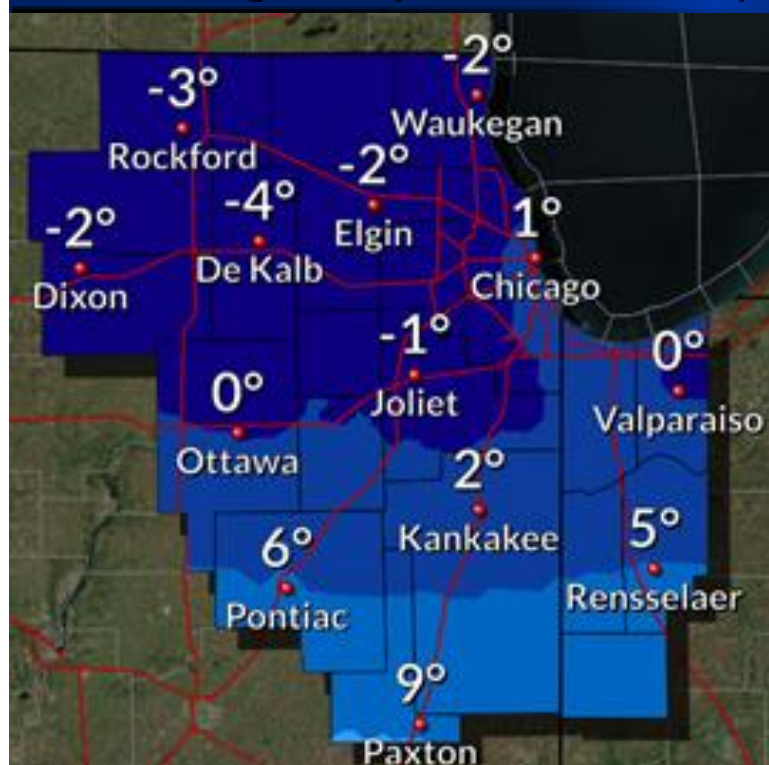
Record to Near Record Cold



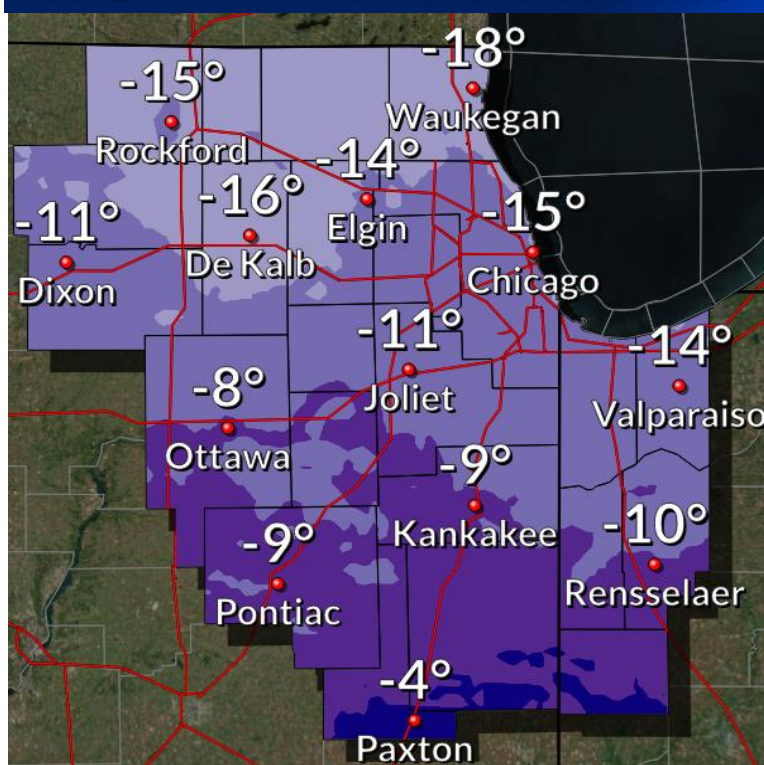
Life-Threatening Wind Chills



Forecast "High" Temperatures Thursday



Still Bitter Cold Wind Chills Thu.



Elevated Risk for Ice Jams Continues/Snow Thursday



Risk for Ice Jams Continues

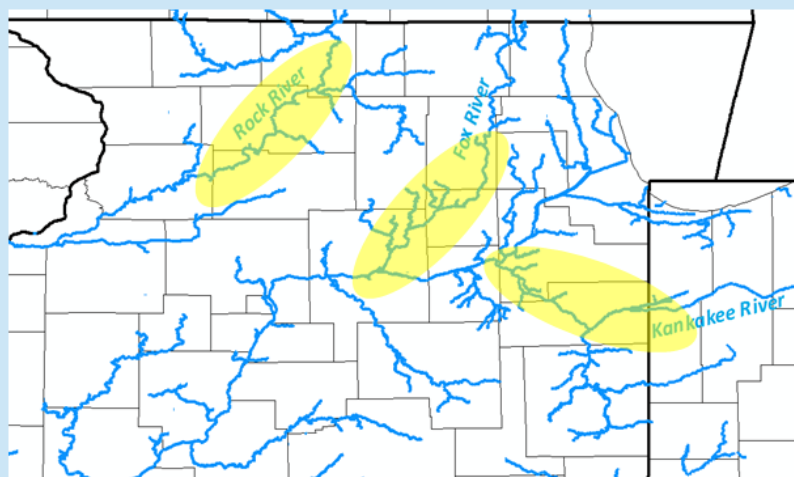
- Extensive ice cover has developed and thickened on area rivers, creeks, and streams due to the prolonged very cold weather.
- Ice jams occur where river flow is impeded by ice. Localized, rapid rises in water levels may occur with little or no notice.
- Residents in low lying flood prone areas should remain alert for possible flooding due to ice jams. Do not attempt to cross flooded roadways.
- Contact the NWS if you observe ice jam flooding.



NWS Chicago | weather.gov/Chicago
1/28/2019 1:03 PM Central



Ice Jam Potential Remains Elevated



Ice jams continue on portions of the Rock, Fox, & Kankakee rivers (in yellow).

For latest river flood warnings and statements, go to: water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=lot

Snow AGAIN Thursday PM



When

Start: Mid to Late Afternoon
End: Early Overnight Thu. Night



Where

Likely Area Wide



Impacts

Snow covered & slick roads
Road treatments less effective with cold temps



What to Do Now

Stay tuned for latest forecast updates

Preliminary Forecast Snowfall



1" to 3"+



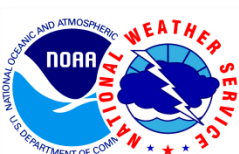
Light to moderate rates



-5° to +10°



Photo: Mike Boyes



Cold Weather Preparedness

CAR PREP:

- Check your battery
- Check your coolant
- Check your tires
- Have jumper cables
- Pack a blanket



HOME PREP:

- Check your furnace
- Check chimneys
- Check your carbon-monoxide detector
- Insulate exposed pipes



ANIMAL / PET PREP:

- Brings pets inside
- Provide shelter and fresh water
- Keep salt away from paws



OUTDOORS:

- Dress for the conditions
- Limit your time
- Check on others
- Watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia



WEATHER.GOV/CHICAGO



Winter weather safety pages:

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Building a Weather-Ready Nation

